

REMARKS

This paper responds to the Office Action dated May 6, 1004. Five independent claims were in the application at that time – 72, 88, 92, 102, and 106. Of those independent claims, three have been allowed, namely 88, 102, and 106. Thus claims 88-91 and 102-107 stand allowed.

5 In this Office Action, the Examiner states that claims 74, 75, 86 and 97 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

As for claim 74, it depends only upon claim 72, and its limitations have been copied into claim 72. It is thus suggested that claim 72 is allowable, along with all of the claims 73-87 that depend from it.

10 As for claim 86, it depends only upon claim 72. Thus, the text of claims 72 and 86 have been combined and are now presented as a new claim 108, which it is suggested is allowable.

As for claim 97, it depends only upon claim 92, and its limitations have been copied into claim 92. It is thus suggested that claim 92 is allowable, along with all of the claims 93-101 that depend from it.

15 A new independent claim 109 is presented, which is the text of claim 92 combined with the limitations of allowable claim 74. It is suggested that this is allowable for the same reasons as claim 74. New dependent claims 110-117 are presented, which depend from new claim 109, and which correspond closely to previous claims 93-101 which depend from claim 92.

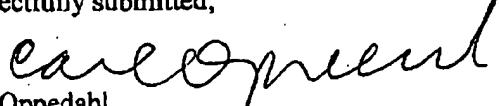
20 Dependent claims 78, 79, 99, and 100 have each been amended to address a 112 problem raised by the Examiner.

As for total claims, the highest number previously paid for is 36, and the application now contains 43. As for independent claims, the highest number previously paid for is 5, and the

application now contains 7. Thus forms PTO/SB/17 and PTO-2038 are attached.

Reconsideration is again respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Carl Oppedahl
PTO Reg. No. 32,746
Oppedahl & Larson LLP
P O Box 5068
Dillon, CO 80435-5068
telephone 970-468-6600
email oppedahl@patents.com